

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /090 W
-----011324 281210Z /15

R 280842Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2273
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 9148

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, ETRD, EWWT, LA, TH
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK SPEAKS TO PRESS ON LAO FOREIGN
MINISTER PHOUN'S VISIT TO THAILAND

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: BANGKOK 9066

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM A TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY USIS,
COVERING THE REMARKS BY PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK AT HIS
PRESS CONFERENCE MAR 22, AFTER HIS MEETING WITH VISITING
LAO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUN SIPASEUT.

QTE Q. WHAT DETAILS DID YOU DISCUSS REGARDING POLITICS?

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A. WE EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN LAOS, IN CAMBODIA,
AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN GENERAL.

Q. WERE DIFFERENCES CAUSED BY BORDER INCIDENTS BROUGHT UP
DURING THE TALKS?

A. VERY FEW MAJOR INCIDENTS OCCUR NOW. REGARDING

REFUGEES, IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TRY AND PREVENT
LARGE NUMBERS FLEEING TO THAILAND FROM LAOS. AND AT THE
SAME TIME, WE MUST ENDEAVOR TO PREVENT INFLUENTIAL REFUGEES
HERE FROM RETURNING TO LAOS AND CAUSING TROUBLE THERE.V

Q. IS LAOS WILLING TO ACCEPT OR REPATRIATE LAOTIAN
REFUGEES IN THAILAND?

A. WE CANNOT COMPEL THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY.

Q. THEN DOES THAT MEAN THAT THEIR COUNTRY IS WILLING TO
ACCEPT ANY REFUGEES WHO ARE WILLING TO RETURN HOME?

A. WE MUST BE CERTAIN THAT THE REFUGEES REALLY WANT TO
RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND THAT THEY WILL NOT BE PUNISHED
IF THEY RETURN.

Q. WHAT DOES LAOS WISH REGARDING THE PROBLEM OF GOODS IN
TRANSIT?

A. IT DOES NOT WANT ANY CHANGE. WE WISH TO PROVIDE LAOS
WITH THE GREATEST CONVENIENCE POSSIBLE AND NOT TO TAKE
ANY UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF IT. HE (THE LAOTIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER) AND I ARE OF THE SAME VIEW THAT ANY CHANGE
WOULD SLOW THE DELIVERY OF GOODS. WE ARE GLAD TO HELP
LAOS IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE, SUCH AS BUYING GOODS IT WISHES
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TO SELL US AND THAT WE NEED. WE WILL HELP LAOS,
ESPECIALLY IN TRANSITING GOODS,BECAUSE WE ARE SISTER
COUNTRIES. WE WILL RESTORE BROTHERLY RELATIONS WITH LAOS
AND CAMBODIA AND OVERCOME ANY AND ALL OBSTACLES OBSTRUCT-
ING OUR EFFORTS.

Q. DID YOU DISCUSS MEASURES TO CACILITATE RIVER CROSS-
INGS BY PEOPLE FROM BOTH SIDES?

A. THOSE ARE DETAILS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED AT
THE OFFICIALS' LEVEL.

Q. DID LAOTIAN PRIME MINISTER KAYSONE SEND ANY MESSAGE
TO YOU?

A. HE SENT HIS BEST REGARDS, AND I SENT HIM MINE.

Q. WON'T YOU INVITE HIM TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO
THAILAND?

A. THAT'S ANOTHER STEP THAT MUST BE TAKEN. I HAVE
ALREADY SAID THAT WE MUST EXCHANGE VISITS IN ORDER TO

PROMOTE GOOD UNDERSTANDING. I EMPHASIZED THAT BOTH OUR
COUNTRIES MUST CONTINUE TO PREVEN QUARRELS THROUGH
PEACEFUL TALKS. WE MUST ENDEAVOR TO SAFE GUARD PEACE AND
QUIET IN THIS REGION AT ALL COSTS. END QTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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